

Exodus 4:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the LORD said unto him, Who hath made man's mouth? or who maketh the dumb, or deaf, or the seeing, or the blind? have not I the LORD? (עִזָּתָּם בְּהָה אֶלְיוֹ מֵ שָׁם פֶּה לְאֶדֶם אֶזְמִישׁוּם אֶלְמָם אֶזְחָרֵשׁ אֶזְפְּקָעֵם אֶזְעָרָבָל אֶלְאָנֹכִי בְּהָה)

Analysis

And the LORD said unto him, Who hath made man's mouth? or who maketh the dumb, or deaf, or the seeing, or the blind? have not I the LORD? (עִזָּתָּם בְּהָה אֶלְיוֹ מֵ שָׁם פֶּה לְאֶדֶם אֶזְמִישׁוּם אֶלְמָם אֶזְחָרֵשׁ אֶזְפְּקָעֵם אֶזְעָרָבָל אֶלְאָנֹכִי בְּהָה) —God's response addresses Moses' excuse at its root: **Who made man's mouth?** God creates human faculties and can enable or disable them as He wills. **Dumb, deaf, seeing, blind**—God's sovereignty extends over all physical conditions. This isn't teaching that God causes all disabilities cruelly, but that He's sovereign over them and can work through them. **Have not I the LORD?** (עִלְיָא אֶנֹּכִי בְּהָה) —rhetorical question asserting divine prerogative. If God made Moses' mouth, He can enable it for His purposes. The Creator can equip His creatures for any task He assigns.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern cultures often viewed disabilities as divine judgment or curses. God's statement reframes disability within His sovereignty—not punishment, but part of His creative and redemptive purposes. This theology anticipates Jesus' teaching in John 9:3 (blind man's condition exists "that the works of God should be made manifest in him"). God's power shines through human limitation.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does God's sovereignty over human abilities challenge you to stop using inadequacy as excuse for disobedience?
2. What does this verse teach about trusting God's enabling power rather than relying on natural talents or regretting limitations?

Interlinear Text

אָמַר	לְאַדְםָן	אֵלֶיךָ	יְהִי	אָמַר	יְהִי	אָמַר	לְאַדְםָן	אֵלֶיךָ	יְהִי	אָמַר	לְאַדְםָן	אֵלֶיךָ	יְהִי
said	man's	God	be	said	be	said	man's	God	be	said	be	said	be
H559	H176	H3068	H413	H4310	H7760	H7760	H6310	H6310	H6493	H176	H176	H176	H176
אָמַר	לְאַדְםָן	אֵלֶיךָ	יְהִי	אָמַר	יְהִי	אָמַר	לְאַדְםָן	אֵלֶיךָ	יְהִי	אָמַר	לְאַדְםָן	אֵלֶיךָ	יְהִי
or who maketh	or the seeing	the dumb	the blind	or deaf	or the blind	the dumb	or who maketh	the seeing	or deaf	or who maketh	the dumb	or deaf	or who maketh
H4310	H176	H483	H483	H176	H2795	H2795	H7760	H6493	H176	H7760	H483	H176	H483
אָמַר	לְאַדְםָן	אֵלֶיךָ	יְהִי	אָמַר	יְהִי	אָמַר	לְאַדְםָן	אֵלֶיךָ	יְהִי	אָמַר	לְאַדְםָן	אֵלֶיךָ	יְהִי
or the blind	or the blind	the dumb	the dumb	or deaf	or deaf	or who maketh	the dumb	or who maketh	the dumb	or who maketh	the dumb	or who maketh	the dumb
H5787	H3808	H595	H595	H3068	H3068	H7760	H483	H7760	H483	H7760	H483	H7760	H483

Additional Cross-References

Amos 3:6 (References Lord): Shall a trumpet be blown in the city, and the people not be afraid? shall there be evil in a city, and the LORD hath not done it?

Psalms 146:8 (References Lord): The LORD openeth the eyes of the blind: the LORD raiseth them that are bowed down: the LORD loveth the righteous:

Isaiah 6:7 (Parallel theme): And he laid it upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged.

Psalms 94:9 (Parallel theme): He that planted the ear, shall he not hear? he that formed the eye, shall he not see?

Psalms 51:15 (References Lord): O Lord, open thou my lips; and my mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

Jeremiah 1:9 (References Lord): Then the LORD put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the LORD said unto me, Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth.

Jeremiah 1:6 (References Lord): Then said I, Ah, Lord GOD! behold, I cannot speak: for I am a child.

Ezekiel 33:22 (References Lord): Now the hand of the LORD was upon me in the evening, afore he that was escaped came; and had opened my mouth, until he came to me in the morning; and my mouth was opened, and I was no more dumb.

Isaiah 42:7 (Parallel theme): To open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison house.

Matthew 11:5 (Parallel theme): The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them.